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TITLE: Replicating Effective Programs: Interventions for Nationwide Dissemination

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ISSUE: After a decade of study, we have many prevention successes, but most remain inaccessible to HIV prevention service providers. These interventions typically exist ~~dy~~ in scientific journals, which are difficult to access and, furthermore, offer too little detail about the intervention content, methods, execution, or strategies for tailoring to meet local needs.

SETTING: Nationwide replications are intended for large and small cities, community-based organizations, hospitals and clinics, housing communities, shelters for homeless youth, and gay bars.

PROJECT: In 1996, CDC initiated two projects to support accessibility to and technology transfer of effective interventions. The Prevention Research Synthesis (PRS) project facilitates identification of interventions with credible evidence of effectiveness. The Replicating Effective Programs (REP) project supports efforts by original investigators and CDC to translate and transfer selected interventions to prevention settings. With REP support, original investigators work with local advisory group to develop intervention materials. Interventions are field tested in non-research settings, and training and technical assistance supports are developed.

RESULTS: The PRS project has identified 25 interventions that work and provides summaries of them. The REP project has supported replication of five effective programs thus far.

LESSONS LEARNED: Collaboration between advisory groups and researchers is the key to package development. Replication does not occur without high level administrative support. Successful implementation and maintenance depend on staffing stability, resource availability, staff skills, and technical assistance.

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